

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed in conjunction with the filing of a Continued Prosecution Application in this case.

The present Preliminary Amendment amends claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, and 11-16, and adds claims 18-20 in order to provide a more adequate basis for protection of the invention of this application. Claim 17 is cancelled herein.

This Amendment increases the total number of claims to nineteen, but does not increase the number of independent claims and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood's Deposit Account No.18-1260.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Kathy E. Needleman

Kathy E. Needleman
Registration No. 47,816
Attorney for Applicant

KEN/jkk

SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201
Direct: (214) 981-3474
Main: (214) 981-3300
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400
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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following is a marked-up version of the changes to the claims which are being made in the attached Preliminary Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice Amended) A device for selecting a network-connected image forming apparatus from a plurality of network-connected image forming apparatuses, where at least one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses [having] has a specific [mode job,] mode, the device comprising:

a controller for selecting one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected with the network, wherein when [the] an input job has a specific mode, said controller selects an image forming apparatus which has the specific mode of the input job and which stores [storing] a prior job having the specific mode of the input job, and [job,] said controller registers the input job in the selected image forming apparatus.

2. (Twice Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said selected image forming apparatus is adapted to form images of a job having the specific mode [job] which requires temporarily stopping the selected image forming apparatus.

3. (Twice Amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein said selected image forming apparatus has a manual [feed] paper feeding [supply] specific mode.

4. (Twice Amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein said selected image forming apparatus is adapted to form an image of a job possessing [a] the specific mode requiring changing paper positioned in the selected image forming apparatus.

6. (Twice Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said controller selects one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses not storing a job of the specific mode [job] when the input job does not have [a] the specific mode.

7. (Twice Amended) A device according to claim 1,
wherein each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses has a memory for storing jobs, and

wherein said controller selects an image forming apparatus not storing a job in [a] the memory of the selected image forming apparatus when an image forming apparatus storing a job of the specific mode [job] cannot be referenced.

9. (Twice Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein when said input job has the specific mode where the specific mode indicates a requirement for a specific size paper,

said controller receives information from [an] the plurality of image forming apparatuses regarding a size of paper in each of the image forming [apparatus,] apparatuses, and

wherein, when no image forming apparatus contains the specific size paper, said controller selects as a selected image forming apparatus an image forming apparatus storing a job having a different specific mode [job] and said controller registers [a] said input job in the selected image forming apparatus. [when no image forming apparatus has paper suitable for the job.]

11. (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus connected with a network through a network controller, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing jobs;

discriminating means for discriminating whether any of the jobs stored in the memory has [is] a specific mode [job] in order to determine a status of the memory; and

reporting means for reporting the status of the [memory.] memory to the network controller such that the network controller can determine whether or not to route an input job to the image forming apparatus.

12. (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said memory stores a job having the specific mode [job] requiring temporary stoppage of the image forming apparatus.

13. (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said memory stores a job having the specific mode [job] requiring a selected image forming apparatus having a manual [feed] paper [supply] feeding mode.

14. (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said memory stores a job having the specific mode [job] requiring changing paper positioned in the selected image forming apparatus.

15. (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

image forming means for forming images on recording medium in order of the sequence of jobs stored in said memory.

16. (Twice Amended) A network system comprising:
a network for transmitting data;
a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected with said network and each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having a memory for storing jobs;
discriminating means for discriminating a status of the memory based on whether the memory stores a job having a specific mode; [job indicating a status of the memory;]
reporting means for reporting to the network the status of the [memory;] memory of any of the plurality of image forming apparatuses whose memory stores a job having the specific mode; and
a control device for selecting one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses connected with [a] the network and registering [a] an input job in the selected image forming apparatus, wherein said control device selects [a predetermined] an image forming apparatus storing a job having the specific mode when the input job [is a] has the specific mode. [job.]

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Claim 17 has been cancelled.

Claims 18, 19, and 20 have been added.